Ex-FBI Official in Dallas Denies Having Oswald Note Destroyed

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Washington (UPI) — Former Dallas FBI head J. Gordon Shanklin says he did not order the destruction of a threatening note from assassin Lee Harvey Oswald and did not know about the note until this year.

Shanklin said Thursday the first time he heard of the note was in an interview with Dallas Times-Herald publisher Thomas Johnson. The note was allegedly received by the FBI a few days prior to the assassination of President John Kennedy but apparently did not include a specific reference to the President.

"I have no recollection of hearing of Oswald's visit to the Dallas office, or of the note, prior to hearing of them from Mr. Johnson," Shanklin told a House judiciary subcommittee.

"I have no recollection of ever seeing the note."

Shanklin, who retired in June, also told the committee he did not remember meeting with agent James Hosty and the agent's supervisor, Kenneth Howe, about the matter.

Hosty has claimed Shanklin ordered the note destroyed a few hours after Oswald was killed while being transferred to a different jail.

Former bureau receptionist Nanny Lee Fenner has said former agent Ural Horton told her last April he mentioned the note to Shanklin in 1973. She says Horton and Shanklin were riding in a car at the time of the exchange, and Horton told her Shanklin "nearly jumped out of the car window."

Shanklin denied having the conversation with Horton.

Under questioning by the committee, Shanklin said he had been reprimanded by FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover for his handling of the Oswald matter because "Hoover was of the opinion that we should have disseminated the fact that a defector was in the area," Oswald had lived in Russia for a while.